

2016 EDITION - VOLUME 17

VISIONS

NO
17

From the
Historical Archives of the
**THE PAULDING
COUNTY PROGRESS**



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VISIONS OF PAULDING COUNTY

ABOUT THE COVER

2016 marks the 17th year for *Visions*. You're just my type: The cover is a nod to the art of the printers. Now, of course, the printing process for newspapers and publications like *Visions* is done entirely on computer. In earlier days, each page was painstakingly composed by hand, letter by letter, using movable type of wood or metal. Print shops would buy entire sets of type in specific fonts and sizes. Because of the time and effort needed to compose text, a new technology was developed in the 1880s to automate the typesetting process – hot metal typesetting. The first was the Linotype machine, which used a keyboard to produce lines of type from a hot metal (lead alloy). Competing systems appeared, including Monotype and the Typograph. Hot metal typesetting was the standard for more than half a century until phototypesetting ("cold type") was introduced in the 1950s and '60s. These devices exposed letters and symbols onto strips of light-sensitive paper that were cut up and arranged to create a whole page. Computer and digital processing revolutionized the industry starting in the 1980s. Some may argue that Internet and e-readers eventually may completely replace ink-and-paper printing, but printing with antique type fonts is seeing a resurgence in popularity. Cover background photo courtesy of Michelle Puehler at www.michellepuehler.com; *Visions* font photo by Melinda Krick.

From the Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress

Seventeenth in a Series

July 27, 2016

Written by Melinda Krick

Features

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Dates chronicle county history 1893-1939

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Visions* could not be produced every year without the aid of many people. This year, our thanks go to John Paulding Historical Society and Paulding County Carnegie Library (two of our county's greatest assets).

For more information on local history, visit the library's genealogy section, which has a wealth of material, including books, indexes, a vertical file, microfilm and a knowledgeable and helpful staff.

Visit www.pauldingcountylibrary.org or look them up on Facebook.

The historical museum is our "best-kept secret" and contains three buildings full of displays and artifacts covering all eras of county history. Visit the museum, across from the fairgrounds, or their Facebook page.

TO PURCHASE EXTRA COPIES

Visions of Paulding County: From the Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress, Volume 17 is published by the Paulding County Progress newspaper. A copy of this publication is included free in the July 27, 2016 edition of the Progress for the enjoyment of our readers. We have a limited supply of additional copies, which may be purchased for \$2 each at the Progress office, 113 S. Williams St., Paulding. Copies can be obtained by mail; call our office at 419-399-4015 for pricing. Inquire about back issues of our *Visions*, published every year since 2000. Three issues are sold out: Vol. 1 from 2000, Vol. 6 from 2005 and Vol. 15 from 2014.

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"Visions of Paulding County: From the Historical Archives of the Paulding County Progress,

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'THE GARDEN SPOT'

By Melinda Krick • Progress and Visions editor

Volume 17 of *Visions of Paulding County* is our latest contribution to preserving our local history and sharing the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped this place we call home. This edition is a continuation of the timeline started in 2014. The first portion started in prehistoric Ice Age times when glaciers helped form the Great Black Swamp and continued through early settlement to the opening of the canals. The second portion traveled through the canal era to the explosive growth and development before the dawn of the new century. Turn the pages to re-live how residents and newcomers adjusted to "modern" life as they began to embrace automobiles, electric lights, airplanes and new wonders such as radio, motion pictures and telephones.

In this era near the turn of the century, change invaded every aspect of life.

The canals were quickly becoming a quaint relic; by the 1930s, New Deal work crews were tearing out canal aqueducts as public improvement projects. The canals gave way to the railroads, and the canal towns faded as railroad towns sprang up along new train routes. Rural Free Delivery of mail began. Then autos were introduced, and grew from a curiosity to a necessity for many families, especially after the affordable Model T arrived. A mobile population meant those little railroad towns and country crossroads, with their post offices and general stores, lost their importance. The extensive list of post offices that closed during this time illustrates this point.

Small communities, once fairly isolated and self-sufficient, began being influenced more and more by new inventions and new discoveries. After electric lights dazzled fairgoers at the 1893 Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, people wanted electricity in their own homes. They advocated electric plants, water works, telephone service and paved roads and streets. Within a couple of years after motion pictures were introduced, many towns had a movie theater (Paulding had three at one time). Soon, radios were a fixture of nearly every home, which affected how people socialized, were entertained, and received news and information.

Where once little towns would spring up overnight, in later years this type of growth stopped. Towns were no longer being platted by developers and speculators. Now, there was still growth, but it was due to improvements of existing buildings. As the original log cabin homes and schools were replaced by wood-frame structures, this era saw the wood-frame structures superseded by brick schools, churches and business blocks. Towns were proud of their new, modern school buildings – some of which were now larger due to increased enrollment due to consolidation. The smaller one-room schools were disappearing and horse-drawn or motorized buses transported farm kids to classes "in town."

Another hallmark of this time period is that the earlier industries, based on using native timber, had to close as the timber started to disappear. A generation or two before, it probably was impossible to imagine the thousands of acres of Black Swamp forest ever being exhausted. Photos of the Auglaize River area

around 1913 show barely a single tree along the riverbanks. With the forests cleared, agriculture dominated. Community leaders proclaimed the great things their towns had to offer. Everyone believed his hometown was a garden spot. They each expected to be the envy of northwest Ohio. The county had a shiny new sugar factory. The county had a new Carnegie library. However, when the sawmills and other lumber industries that employed so many men closed, jobs and opportunities became scarce and the residents who had flocked here soon began to leave.

Some of the sources used to compile the Vol. 17 timeline include, but are not limited to:

Antwerp Centennial booklet

Briceton Centennial booklet

Cecil & Vicinity booklet by Dorothy Chester

Historical Atlases of 1882 and 1892

History of Grover Hill (Latty and Washington Townships of Paulding County, Ohio) by Laurence R. Hipp

"History of Payne and Vicinity" columns by Florence Cartwright

The Melrose Area by Ann Sherry

Ohio Ghost Towns #19 Paulding County by the Center For Ghost Town Research in Ohio

Paulding County Fair Centennial Book

A Paulding Journal by Jeanne Calvert

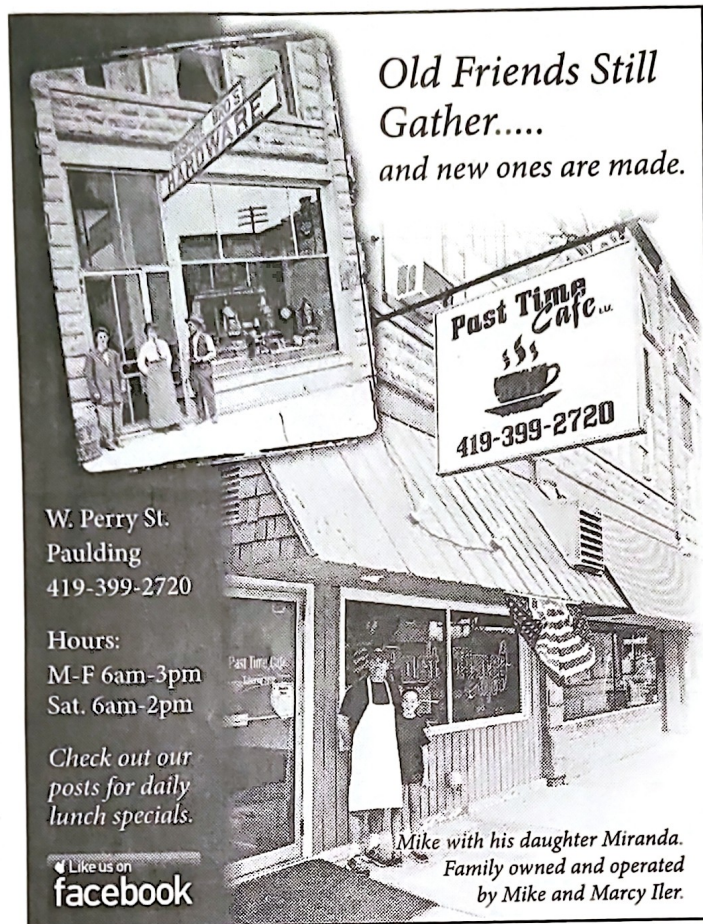
Payne Centennial booklet

Scott Centennial booklet

Vertical files at Paulding County Carnegie Library and John Paulding Historical Society

Miscellaneous items culled from back issues of the *Paulding County Progress* and its predecessors, the *Paulding Democrat* and *Paulding County Republican*





*Old Friends Still Gather....
and new ones are made.*

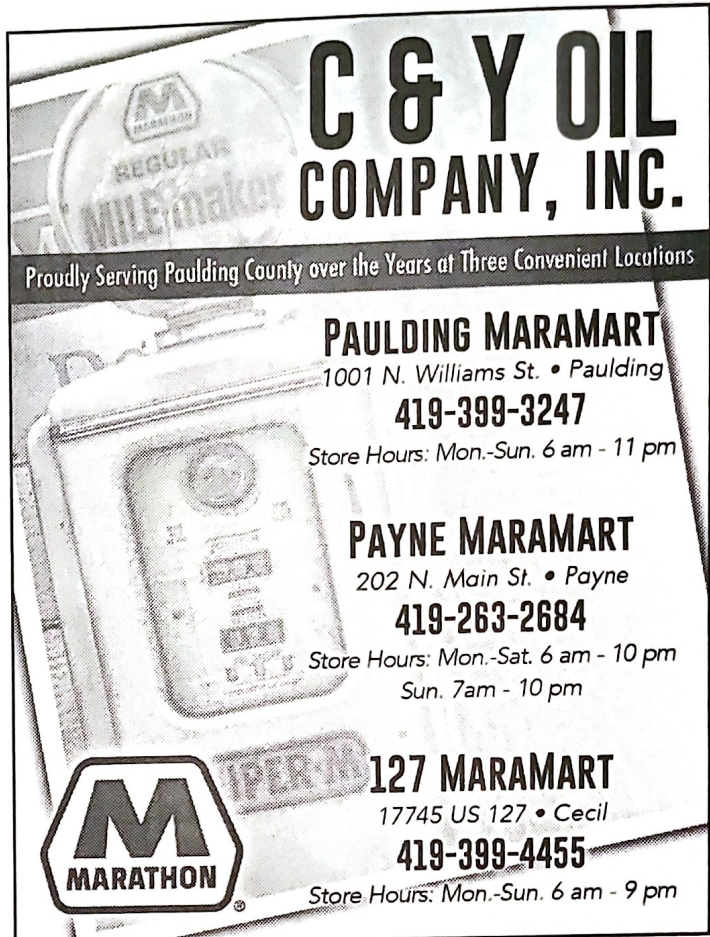
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A TIMELINE of HISTORY

1893 – Sophia Post Office opens in Benton Township; McGill P.O., closed since fall 1886, reopens for a third time; Hamer P.O. closes.

1893 – Potter's Bank, the county's first, closes.

1893 – Antwerp Exchange Bank is established.

1893 – The Columbian Exposition in Chicago, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the New World, attracts 27 million visitors and introduces such items as Juicy Fruit chewing gum, Cracker Jack and the Ferris Wheel.



1894 – The first commercial motion picture house opens in New York City, featuring Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope, an early motion picture exhibition device.

1894 – Morrison Post Office is discontinued.

1894 – A fire in Latty consumes five businesses and a dwelling.

1894 – A telephone line is in operation between Melrose and Oakwood.

1895 – First week-long Church of God camp meeting held southwest of Payne.

1895 – Timberville Post Office on the Miami-Erie Canal and the Sophia Post Office are discontinued. Name changes: The Post Office at Reids is changed to Reid, and Grover Hill becomes Groverhill.

1895 – Oakwood High School has its first commencement ceremony with two graduates, Anna Stover and Myrtle Daish.

1893

1893 – A devastating fire destroys two downtown squares in Paulding. Lost are 30 business buildings, between the jail and the "Straw Block" [northwest side of square], including the new Hotel Barnes, set to open later in the week. Van Wert's fire department is summoned for aid.

1893 – Bids are taken for paving several streets in Paulding with brick.

1893 – The rebuilt Hotel Barnes opens on Thanksgiving morning.

1894

1894 – The brutal local murder of two children – Ashby Good, age 8-1/2, and his little sister Elsie, age 5-1/2 – captures public attention across Ohio.

1894 – Coca-Cola first bottled.



1895

1895 – Charles Hart of Defiance County is executed by hanging in the Ohio Penitentiary for the murder of the Good children in November 1894. He is Paulding County's only prisoner to be executed by the state.

1895 – The first professional football game is played in the U.S. at Latrobe, Pa.

1895 – Fort Wayne celebrates its centennial.



1896 – Utah becomes the 45th state.

1896 – The first modern Olympic Games are held in Athens, Greece.

1896 – The Klondike Gold Rush begins in Canada.

1896 – The Village of Haviland is incorporated.

1896 – Follmer Post Office is discontinued.

1896 – Henry Ford builds his first car.



1897 – Britain's Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee, 60 years of rule.

1897 – Paulding Village passes an ordinance to light the village with electricity.

1898 – An electric light plant is in operation in Paulding.

1898 – A brick school is constructed in Latty.

1898 – The U.S. battleship Maine explodes in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, triggering the start of the brief Spanish-American War against Spain.

1898 – After peace treaty is signed, the U.S. annexes former Spanish possessions Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

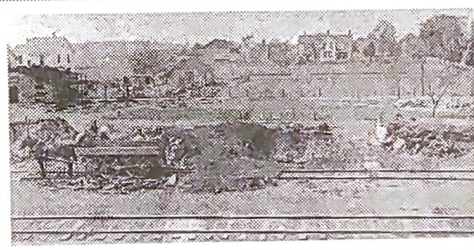
1898 – Republic of Hawaii annexed.

1896

1897

1898

1896 – St. Joseph Catholic Church is constructed on North Williams Street in Paulding, near the intersection of what is now Miles Street.



1897 – The *Grover Hill Reporter* newspaper is established.

1897 – Oakwood High School holds its second commencement.

1897 – The first test crops of sugar beets are grown in the county.

1897 – A telephone exchange is in operation in Paulding.

1897 – Ragtime music becomes popular.

1898 – On July 4, a huge fire in Payne destroys two blocks of buildings on both sides of Main Street from Merrin to Bailey. The blaze destroyed about 25 businesses for a loss of nearly \$100,000.

1898 (circa) – The first two petitions are filed asking the county commissioners for stone or gravel roads. One is the Section 8 Pike west of Paulding and the other is the Staley Pike traversing the southeastern part of the county.



1899 – Lumber for the various mills and factories in this part of the state is becoming scarce. Many have closed.

1899 – The first meeting of the Pioneer Association of Paulding County will be held at the fairgrounds.

1899 – Large fire in Oakwood wipes out nearly all the buildings on the east side of First Street.

1899 – The organization Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is chartered by Spanish-American War veterans.



1900 – The 20th century begins.

1900 – World population: 1.6 billion; U.S. population: 72.2 million; Ohio population: 4,157,545; Paulding County Census: 27,528 – our peak population to date.

1900 – (circa) Last saloon in the old canal town Tate's Landing is mysteriously dynamited.

1901 – Following a "century of steam," the "century of electricity" begins.

1901 – The county's first rural mail route – 26 miles long – is established at Paulding Post Office.

1901 – Queen Victoria of England dies. For nearly 63 years, she ruled the British empire of about one-quarter of the world's land area and one-quarter of its people.

1901 – Old red covered bridge at Charloe is torn down and replaced by a modern steel structure.

1899

1900

1901

1900 – Village populations: Haviland 186; Broughton 226; Cecil 326; Oakwood 342; Melrose 383; Latty 444; Scott 547; Grover Hill 655; Antwerp 1,206; Payne, 1,336; Paulding 2,080.

1900 – Kodak debuts the Brownie camera, making photography accessible to the masses for the first time. In the first year, more than a quarter of a million are sold.

1900 (circa) – Several oil wells are drilled in Washington Township.

1900 – Count Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin successfully demonstrates his airship in Germany.

1900 – Part of Washington Township, lying north of the Auglaize River in Sections 1 and 2 are transferred to Brown Township.



1901 – Grover Hill has telephone service.

1901 (circa) – Electricity is available in Payne.

1901 – Paulding residents vote in favor of a bond issue for a water works system.

1901 (circa) – The first automobile in Paulding County: Mont DeWitt purchases an Oldsmobile.

1901 – First Nobel Prizes are awarded in the fields of physics, physiology or medicine, chemistry, literature and peace.



1902 – Post Offices close: Smiley, Link, Junction, Arthur and Arena Post Offices are discontinued.

1902 – Payne School is destroyed by fire.

1902 – Grover Hill Exchange Bank Co. organizes as a state institution and incorporates; it first opened in 1898 as a private banking institution.

1902 – St. Joseph Catholic Church is moved from North Williams Street to a new site on Main Street.

1902 – The state board of charities recommends to the county commissioners that they build a hospital and separate quarters for male inmates at the county infirmary.

1903 – The Miami & Erie Canal's tolls total more than \$70,000, despite competition from the railroads and long after most other canals have been forgotten and overgrown.

1903 – Paulding Public Library Association is organized with 32 charter members.

1903 – The Latty railroad depot and the Cecil Town Hall are both destroyed by fires.



1904 – Two graduates are in the first commencement ceremony of Grover Hill High School, Raymond Heath and Paul Seeds.

1904 – Paulding Library Association opens a public library and reading room on the second floor of a building on North Main Street in Paulding.

1904 – The Post Offices of Giauque and Worstville are discontinued.

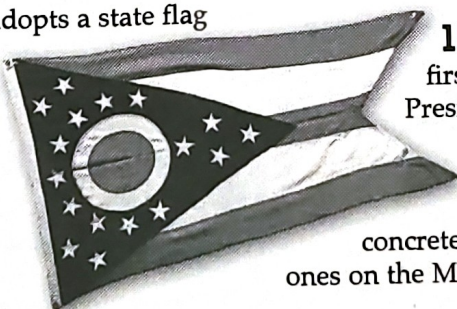
1902

1902 – A new school building is to be erected in the west end of Paulding.

1902 – The *Oakwood News* begins publishing.

1902 – A state canal improvement program is initiated in Ohio.

1902 – Ohio adopts a state flag design – the swallowtail flag is the only non-rectangular state flag.



1903

1903 – Giauque Post Office is established; Reid Post Office is discontinued.

1903 – Ford Motor Co. is founded.

1903 – First World Series held with the Boston Americans beating the Pittsburgh Pirates.

1903 – First coast-to-coast crossing of the American continent by car, in 65 days.

1903 – Steiff designs the first teddy bears, named after President Theodore Roosevelt.

1903 – (circa) Ohio General Assembly authorizes concrete locks to replace wooden ones on the Miami & Erie Canal.

1904

1904 – The entire county has Rural Free Delivery of mail.

1904 – The U.S. begins construction work on the Panama Canal.

1904 – St. Louis hosts both a World Exhibition and the first Olympic Games held in the U.S.

1904 – Helen Keller graduates from Radcliffe College.

1904 – First New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square in New York City.



1905 – Oakwood's first telephone company organizes.

1905 – Post Offices are continued at Charloe, Dague, Emmett and Hedges. Groverhill Post Office is changed back to Grover Hill.

1905 – Fire destroys eight buildings on the east side of the courthouse square in Paulding.

1905

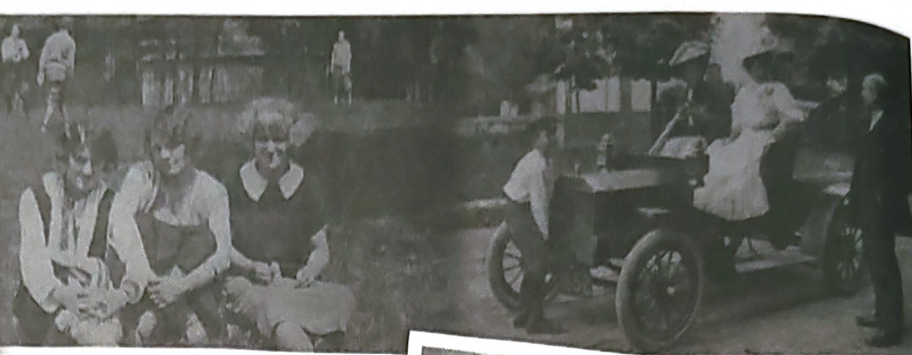
1905 – The Paulding Commercial Club is established to the promote growth, development and welfare of Paulding.

1905 – Paulding County has 32 saloons.

1905 – (circa) Payne's first brick paved street.

1905 – Oakwood Deposit Bank Co. opens for business.

1905 – Einstein's Theory of Relativity and formulation of the equation $E=MC^2$.



1906 – A devastating earthquake and subsequent fires in San Francisco leave about 3,000 dead and destroys about 80 percent of the city.

1906 – A new grandstand is constructed at the fairgrounds. The 132-foot structure will seat 1,200.

1906 – Roselms Post Office is discontinued.

1906 – (circa) Briceton School built.

1906

1906 – The U.S. Pure Food & Drugs Act.

1906 – Theodore Roosevelt becomes the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

1906 – The I.O.O.F. and Knights of Pythias lodges in Grover Hill build the three-story brick Fraternal Building.

1906 – Voters pass bond issues for purchasing a municipal light plant and for extending the water system.



1908 – A major fire in Grover Hill destroys about 15 businesses, including a grain elevator.

1908 – General Motors Corp. is founded.

1908

1908 – Ford Motor Co. produces the Model T, "The car that put the world on wheels." Purchase price: as little as \$825.





1909 – Construction begins on St. Mary Catholic Church building in Junction. The parish contains 81 families.

1909 – American explorer Robert E. Peary claims to be the first to reach the North Pole; however, Frederick Cook claimed he had done so one year earlier, in 1908.

1909 – Invention of Bakelite, the first synthetic plastic, marks the beginning of the Plastic Age.

1909 – In London, hairdressers give the first permanent waves.

1909 – White-tailed deer and wild turkeys are declared extinct in Ohio.



1910 – World population: 1.75 billion; U.S. population: 92.2 million; Ohio population: 4,767,121. Paulding County Census: 22,730, a decrease of nearly 5,000 (17.4%) from 1900 – the biggest drop in Ohio.

1910 – During a canal improvement project, Locks #32 and #33 in Paulding County are rebuilt, using concrete instead of wood.

1910 – Halley's Comet appears.

1910 – In August, the completed St. Marys Junction Church opens.

1910 – In May, the two-story frame Grover Hill School burns.

1910 – Repairs to the northern end of the Miami & Erie Canal have improved conditions.

1910 – Paulding resident William H. Phipps is appointed by President Taft to be Auditor General of the Philippine Islands.

1909

1909 – Announcement that the German-American Sugar Co. will build a \$700,000 sugar beet processing factory in Paulding.



1910

1910 – Boy Scouts of America founded.

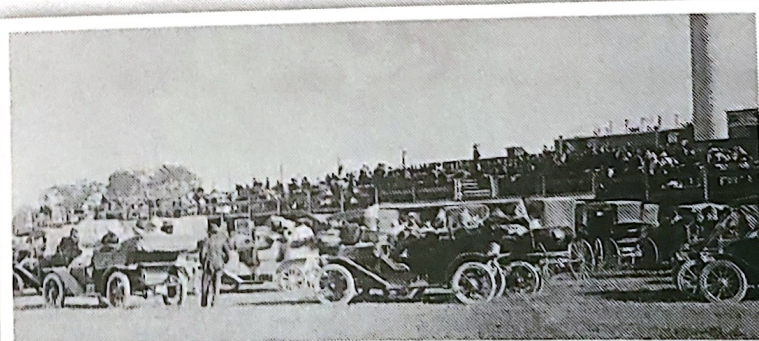
1910 – Father's Day is first observed.

1910 – The county has more than 30 grain elevators in operation.

1911

1910 – The county has constructed or is in the process of constructing 434 miles of macadamized roads.

1910 – In October, the German-American Sugar Co. opens. About 12,000-15,000 attend the opening ceremonies.





1911 – The Ohio National Guard Armory is built on the east side of the square in Paulding.

1911 – Grover Hill builds a new school to replace the one burned in 1910. The new structure doesn't have electricity or indoor restrooms.

1911 – Large numbers of foreign-born workers arrive to thin and weed sugar beet fields. They are chiefly Belgians, Hungarians and Germans.

1911 – The Batson and Knoxdale Post Offices are discontinued.



1912 – In April, the RMS Titanic sinks after striking an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,513 passengers.

1912 – New Mexico and Arizona become our 47th and 48th states, respectively.

1912 – Girl Scouts of America founded.

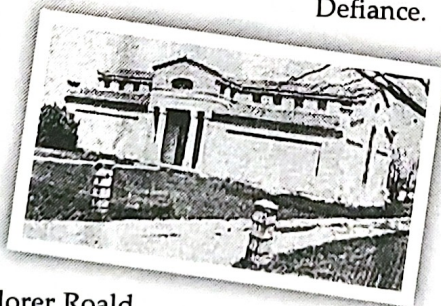
1911

1911 – A new school building opens in Antwerp.

1911 – Inaugural Indianapolis 500 car race. The winner: Ray Harroun with an average speed of 74.602 mph.

1911 – A mausoleum is erected in Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding.

1911 – Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen is the first to reach the South Pole.



1912

1912 – The F.W. Woolworth Co. is founded.

1912 – Construction begins on the Power Dam on the Auglaize River south of Defiance.

1913

1912 – (circa) – The last canal boat passes through the county, on the Miami & Erie Canal.

1912 – The "County Line Bridge" over the Auglaize River on the Paulding-Putnam County Line opens south of Oakwood.



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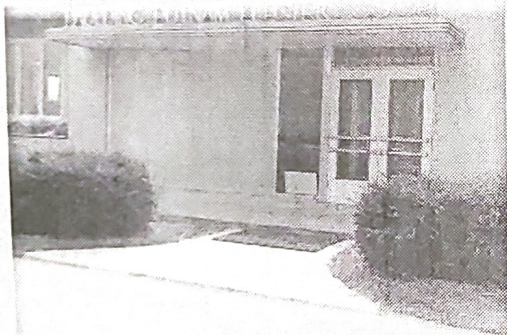
1940 Chevrolet scaling out a load of straw.

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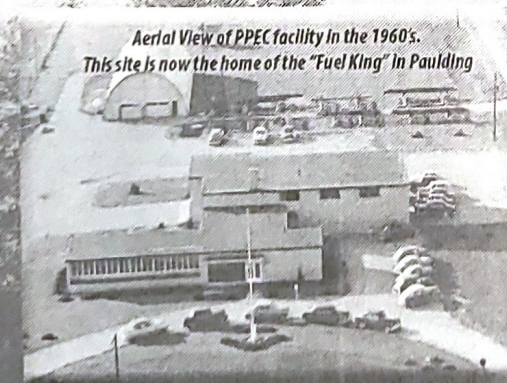
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PPEC's office, once located at the corner of Gasser Road and N. Williams Street in Paulding, Ohio. Picture taken in 1960.



Aerial View of PPEC facility in the 1960's. This site is now the home of the "Fuel King" in Paulding.

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1913 – March's "Great Flood of 1913" causes death of at least 467 Ohioans and destruction across the state. Locally, many communities are impacted, especially Oakwood and Melrose. It remains the most catastrophic weather event in Ohio history.

1913 – Heavy winds blow down the west wall of the brick Cecil School (built 1892), and cause the east wall to fall outward.

1913 – McGill Post Office is discontinued for the third time.

1914 – Major fire in Briceton destroys a big general store, which houses the Post Office, and also a seed storage building.

1914 – The town of Charloe is sold at a sheriff's sale.

1914 – Babe Ruth makes his Major League debut, playing for the Boston Red Sox.

1914 – A feature of the county fair is a "Curtiss Biplane, or flying machine, which is making daily flights over the Fair Grounds, for the entertainment of those in attendance ... This is the first biplane to appear in Paulding." It is the first glimpse that thousands of people ever had of a flying machine in actual operation.



1913

1913 – Andrew Carnegie offers \$40,000 to build and equip a library to serve the entire county.

1913 – The main wooden building at the county home is destroyed by fire.

1913 – The canal commission will be in the county to secure information on the state of the canals.

1913 – The first resident hunting license is required in Ohio.

1913 – Federal income tax is introduced to the U.S. through the 16th Amendment.

1914

1914 – A huge fire in Latty destroys two hotels.

1914 – The first Paulding County Board of Education is elected by the presidents of each board of education in the county. John C. Berg is selected to be the first county superintendent of schools.

1914 – World War I breaks out in Europe.

1914 – Electricity comes to Grover Hill.



1914 – Payne's Fountain Park, featuring a sulfur spring, is built.

1914 – (circa) Three movie theaters are operating in Paulding.

1914 – WWI: First aerial combat.

1915



1915 – The first transcontinental telephone call is placed between New York and San Francisco.

1915 – The U.S. Coast Guard is established.

1915 – St. John Lutheran Church in Briceton dedicates its new building.

1915 – The Ohio Cooperative Extension Service is established in the county and the first agricultural agent is hired, C. Ellis Bundy.

1915 – Ford develops a farm tractor.



1915 – (circa) A new school is constructed in Cecil.

1915 – Paulding High School holds its first homecoming in the fall.

1915 – Fire in Melrose destroys a hardware store, livery stable and residence. Thanks to "heroic work" by residents and a delegation of Oakwood men who rushed to the scene, the fire was kept from spreading.

1915

1916

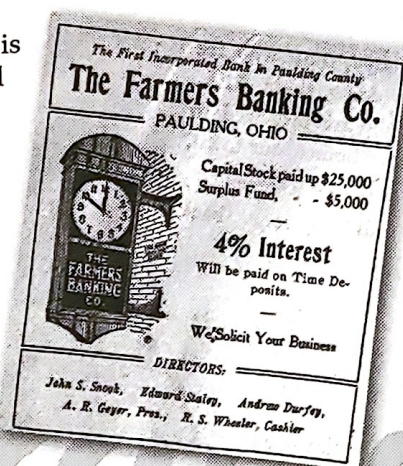
1917

1915 – WWI: A German submarine sinks the ship RMS Lusitania, with 1,193 casualties.

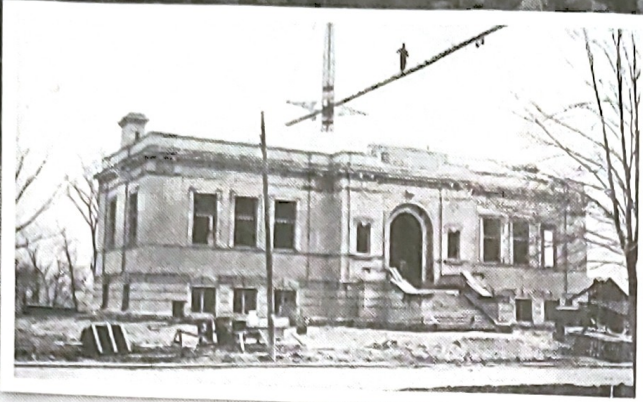
1915 – Construction is completed on a brick main building at the county home, replacing the structure lost to fire in 1913.

1915 – Farmers Banking Co. is having a large clock installed in front of their building.

1915 – Ford produces its one millionth car.



Ohio



1916 – Paulding County Carnegie Library opens, the first county Carnegie library in the U.S. It contains 4,000 books with a capacity of 15,000.

1916 – An addition is built on Paulding High School.

1916 – New Melrose School opens.

1916 – Voters approve Grover Hill and Latty Township school districts merging.

1917 – The United States declares war on Germany, entering the World War. Locally, patriotic residents of all ages raise flags and buy Liberty Bonds.

1917 – Paulding County Carnegie Library has substations in Payne, Oakwood, Grover Hill, Antwerp and Haviland.

1915

1916

1917

1916 – (circa) First brick paved street in Antwerp.

1916 – National Park Service is established.

1916 – Mexican revolutionary general Pancho Villa raids New Mexico and kills 17 Americans.

1916 – Tipton Post Office is discontinued.

1917 – First resident trapping license required in Ohio.

1917 – Due to anti-German sentiments, the German-American Sugar Co. changes its name to Columbia Sugar Co.



1917 – The Oakwood School is demolished in June, and construction starts on a new building.

1917 – WWI: The first U.S. division arrives in France; first tank battle; revolution in Russia; Russian czar abdicates; Mata Hari is executed as a spy.





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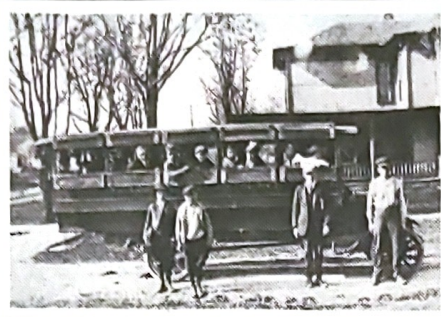
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1918 – Paulding Schools begins transporting pupils from new rural territories using two “auto trucks” (buses).

1918 – Paulding Village School District replaces Paulding Special School District. The new district also includes areas of Jackson, Crane and Paulding townships.

1918 – The county suffers the loss of its first soldier killed in action in WWI.

1918 – Daylight Saving Time introduced in the U.S.

1918 – Worldwide influenza epidemic strikes; by 1920, the flu claims an estimated 50 million lives.

1918 – Civil War Soldiers’ Monument is dedicated at Riverside Park in Antwerp.



1919 – 100th anniversary of first settlement in Paulding County by Shadrach Hudson.

1919 – County’s first 4-H club is organized as a pig club.

1919 – Paulding County Farm Bureau is established.

1919 – Melrose High School holds its first commencement with graduates Lenora Shirley, Iva Essex, Esther Zeigler and Mary Priest.

1919 – Paulding County Carnegie Library has new substations in Mandale and Arthur.

1918

1918 – First parochial school established by St. Joseph Catholic Church in Paulding with 82 pupils.

1918 – Traffic control devices are installed around the square in Paulding.

1918 – Russia’s former czar Nicholas II and his family are executed by Bolshevik soldiers.

1918 – WWI: On Nov. 11, an armistice is signed between the Allies and Germany, ending hostilities.



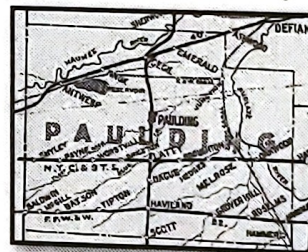
1919

1919 – Prohibition takes effect in January with the ratification of the 18th Amendment, a nationwide constitutional ban on the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages.

1919 – Drs. Russell, Fauster and DeMuth start a small private hospital on the second floor of the Pursel Building on the west side of the square in Paulding.

1920

1919 – The rails of the financially troubled Findlay, Ft. Wayne & Western Railroad are removed from the southern part of the county. The route [formerly the American Midland] goes through several towns, including Haviland, Grover Hill and Mandale.



1919 – The first nonstop trans-Atlantic airplane flight is completed from Newfoundland to Ireland.



1920 – World population: 1.8 billion; U.S. population: 106 million; Ohio population: 5,759,394; Paulding County Census: 18,736.

1920 – In the U.S., 8,890,000 motor vehicles are licensed.

1920 – Harrison Township Centralized School opens.

1920 – Suffrage is granted after the 19th Amendment gives all women the right to vote. Millions vote for the first time in the 1920 presidential election.

1921 – Three graduate from St. Joseph Parochial School.

1921 – Melrose High School loses its charter; its students are transferred to Oakwood High School.



1921 – First Miss America pageant held.

1921 – The Unknown Soldier is interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

1921 – Adolph Hitler is elected leader of Germany's Nazi Party.

1922 – Completion of the concrete "Van Wert-Paulding Road" (U.S. 127).

1922 – Electric power available for the first time in Latty.

1922 – May Bybee is elected as Paulding County recorder to begin serving in 1923, the first woman to hold any office in the county and among the first elected to office in the state.

1920

1921

1922

1920 – League of Nations opens in Paris.

1920 – St. John Parochial School starts in Payne with 80 students.

1920 – A "killer tornado" strikes Renollet Station in Emerald Township, killing six, injuring 14 and destroying all the buildings in town.



1920 – Roselm Grange #2317 established.

1920 – The first licensed commercial radio station in America, KDKA, begins broadcasting in Pittsburgh.



1922 – Ohio's first radio station, WHK, begins broadcasting in Cleveland.

1922 – OSU in Columbus begins the first educational radio station in North America, WOSU.

1922 – Haviland's new school opens.

1922 – The tomb of ancient Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen is discovered.

1922 – Soviet states form the U.S.S.R.



1923 – Three acres adjoining the Paulding High School grounds are donated to the village for a playground, which is named Harmon Field. A few months later, additional land is purchased next to Harmon Field for a baseball and football field.

1923 – C.A. Dickinson deeds the "pool" just east of the Flat Rock Creek bridge on Jackson Street to the village for use as a swimming pool.

1924 – 2.5 million radios are in use in the U.S.

1924 – The first Crane Township-Cecil Homecoming is held with 300 attending

1924 – The Masonic Lodge purchases a building on the southeast corner of the square for use as a lodge hall.

1924 – The first Winter Olympic Games are held at Chamonix, France, is held with 16 nations participating.

1925 – The swimming pool east of the bridge in Paulding is open and free to all.

1925 – A fire destroys St. Joseph Catholic Church in Paulding, originally built in 1896. A second fire causes serious damage to the high school.

1925 – F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* is published; Fitzgerald christens the decade "The Jazz Age."

1925 – Everyone is dancing The Charleston.

1925 – Chrysler Corporation is founded.

1923

1923 – The county has 21 4-H clubs with 31 boys and 309 girls as members.

1923 – In Payne, a new high school is dedicated.

1923 – Nevada and Montana become the first states to introduce old-age pensions.

1923 – International Harvester truck plant opens in Fort Wayne, where it will become "Heavy-Duty Truck Capital of the World" and employ 10,000 workers.

1923 – The news magazine *Time* is introduced.

1924

1924 – Among the graduates in the Paulding High School Class of 1924 is David Smith, who would go on to become an important and influential sculptor, with works in major art collections worldwide.

David Smith



1924 – "A Pageant of Progress" is presented at the county fair.

1925

1925 – First resident fishing license required in Ohio.

1925 – The county commissioners accept the estate of Levi Eaton to be used for a children's home.



Levi Eaton





1926 – (circa) Charloe School closes and consolidates with the Oakwood School District.

1926 – Deaths of screen heartthrob Rudolph Valentino and magician Harry Houdini.

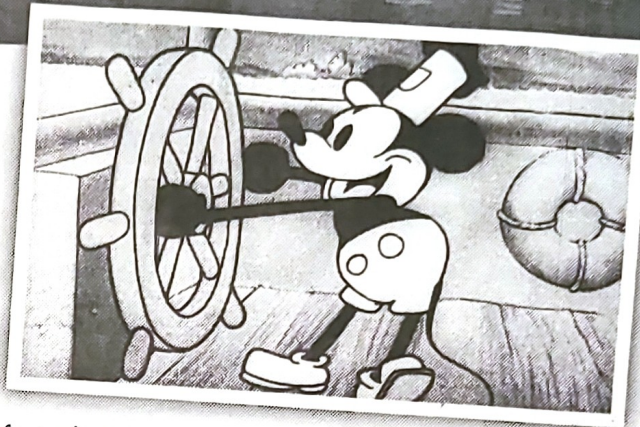
1926 – Robert Goddard fires the first liquid fuel rocket.

1928 – The antibiotic penicillin is discovered.

1928 – Disney animated feature "Steamboat Willie," opens, featuring Mickey Mouse.

1928 – First Oscars are presented.

1928 – Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.



1929 – St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago, 6 dead.

1929 – The Exchange Bank of Grover Hill closes its doors.

1929 – The airship Graf Zeppelin flies around the world in 20 days.

1926

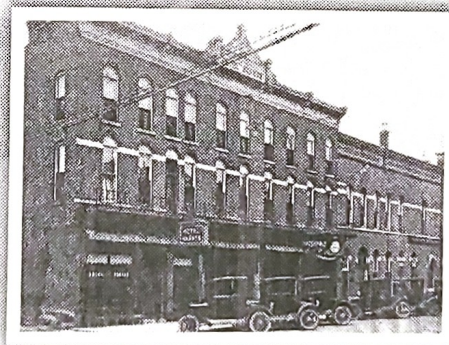
1927

1929

1927 – Charles Lindbergh becomes a national hero after completing the first solo nonstop trans-Atlantic flight in the Spirit of St. Louis from New York to Paris.

1927 – The first talking film "The Jazz Singer" premieres, virtually ending the silent film era overnight.

1927 – Henry Ford and his son Edsel drive the 15 millionth Model T Ford out of their Detroit factory, marking the famous automobile's official last day of production.



1929 – The "Black Tuesday" stock market crash in October precipitates the Great Depression of the 1930s, a worldwide economic crisis.

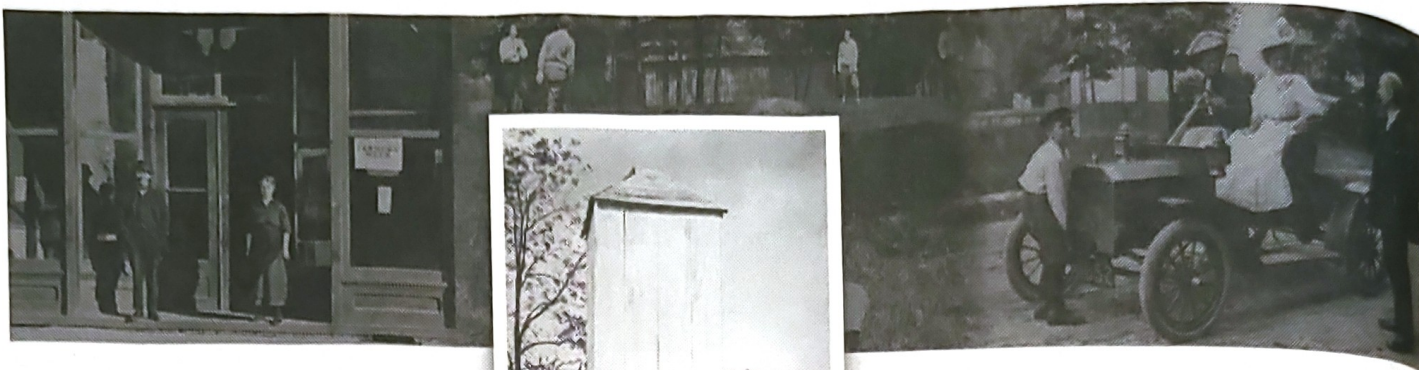
1929 – In Middletown, a ceremony is held to officially close the Miami & Erie Canal – 104 years after its opening.

1929 – Tip Taylor leases the Hotel Barnes in Paulding.

1929 – Construction begins on the 22-story Lincoln National Bank building – the tallest building in Indiana at the time.

1929 – A local branch of the Chamber of Commerce is being formed in Paulding by the merger of the Business Men's Association and the Community Club.





Ohio

1930 – World population: 2 billion; U.S. population: 122.7 million; Ohio population: 6,646,697; Paulding County Census: 15,301.

1930 – Separate fires destroy Tipton's school and grain elevator.

1930 – 150th anniversary observed of Major Andre's capture by John Paulding, David Williams and Isaac Van Wart.

1930 – The planet Pluto is discovered.

1931 – The site of Fort Brown is surveyed and funds raised to purchase 1.25 acres of the site for a public park.

1931 – Dedication ceremonies for Route 24 from the Indiana-Ohio State Line to Napoleon are held in Defiance.

1932 – Antwerp Exchange Bank closes, but is expected to reorganize and reopen.

1932 – The sugar beet factory in Paulding is sold at sheriff's auction; it will reopen and operate as Paulding Sugar Co.

1930

1930 – Congress creates the Veterans Administration (VA).

1930 – Mandale Post Office discontinued.



1931

1931 – American inventor Thomas Edison dies.

1931 – The "Star Spangled Banner" officially become our National Anthem.

1931 – The Empire State Building opens in New York City.



1932

1932 – Paulding County leads the state in acres of sugar beets.



1932 – Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

Cooper Farms' first hatchery

was located in the back of the Cooper furniture store, in downtown Oakwood and employed about 50 team members. Today, Cooper Farms' hatchery has expanded to four locations across northwest Ohio and employs over 2,000 team members.

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Interesting History

1882 Malottville, Ohio (aka Puckerbrush) changes to the name of Payne, Ohio. At the time, the town consisted of about 16 families.

1883 The Village of Payne is incorporated.

1884 Account in the Payne Star... "The town now numbers nearly 1,000 people with three hotels, about thirty business houses, besides four saw mills, one stove and one bucket factory, and last but not least a brand new newspaper. It is surrounded by a country that only needs to have its rich soil drained and developed to become as fine an agricultural section as can be found anywhere."

1880s Account in the Payne Star... "A stroll through our village will soon convince you that it is growing. We would (also) have it distinctly understood, that the town known as "Pucker-brush" is no more. In the place where it stood is now the beautiful little city of "Payne", which is destined to be in the near future, the largest, the prettiest and most flourishing town in the county."

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1933 – Briceton Post Office is discontinued.

1933 – Briceton School closes; Haviland and Scott schools consolidate as Haviland-Scott School District.

1933 – A dam is being built across Flat Rock Creek near the sugar beet factory.

1933 – The county's first airplane fatality: A plane carrying two men crashes near McDonald Bridge [now the site of Paulding Reservoir].

1933 – The Paulding Lions Club organizes.

1934 –

A new municipal swimming pool opens in Paulding, built by the CWA (Civil Works Administration) and measuring 100x100 feet.

1934 – CWA workers remove the aqueduct of the Miami-Erie Canal over Flat Rock Creek near Junction.

1934 – Paulding Fish & Game Club organizes.



1935 – Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative holds an organizational meeting.

1935 – Eagles Aerie to be located in Paulding.

1933

1933 – The worst year of the Great Depression with one-fourth of the nation's workforce unemployed.

1933 – Prohibition ends with the ratification of the 21st Amendment.

1933 – "A Century of Progress International Exposition" World's Fair opens in Chicago and continues through fall 1934.



1934

1935 – Land is to be purchased for a permanent park at the site of New Rochester.

1935 – Township trustees form a county association

1935 – Log cabin shelterhouse and retaining wall to be erected at site of New Rochester. The old well there will be restored. The four-acre site was purchased from Marion Simpson.

1935 – Ray Burt constructs Fort Brown Skating Rink.

1935

1935 – Ohio's retail sales tax instituted.



1935 – New Rochester centennial founding celebrated.

1935 – Social Security Act creates a federal pension system.

1935 – State corn husking championship held on Wunder Farm west of Paulding with 35,000 people attending.

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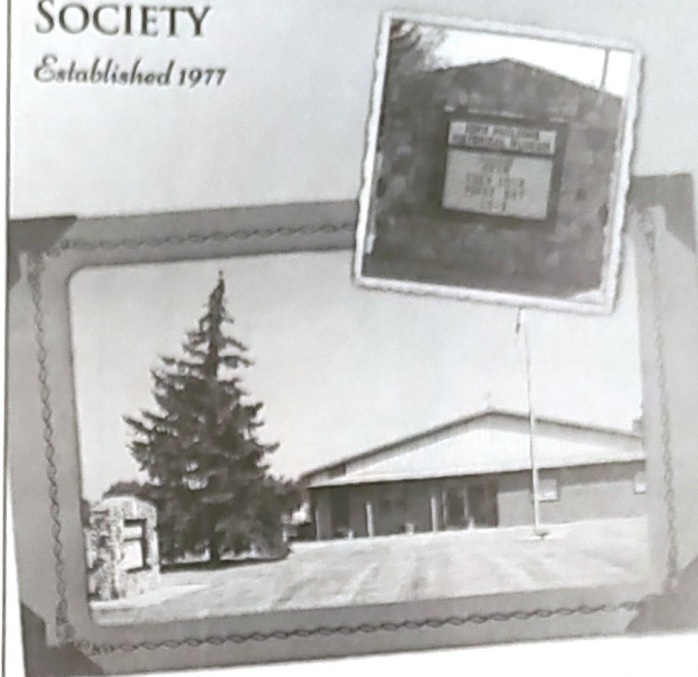
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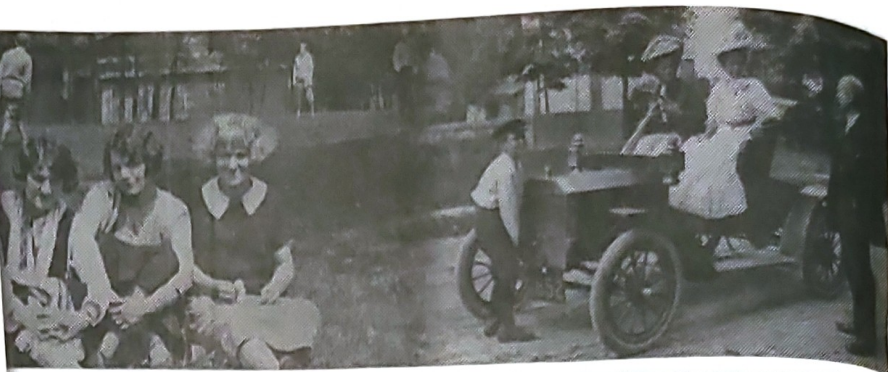
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1936 – Cincinnati Northern Railroad receives permission to discontinue passenger service through Paulding.

1938 – Open house for new Paulding Memorial Hospital, located at the county home east of Paulding.

1938 – Work crews remove the canal aqueduct south of Melrose and the belfry tower at Paulding High School

1938 – Paulding-Putnam Electric Cooperative sets its first power pole.



1939 – Dedication of a new building for Paulding High School.

1939 – The newly constructed Paulding Post Office building opens.

1939 – Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes the first president to speak on television.

1939 – Germany invades Poland; World War II begins.

1936

1938

1939

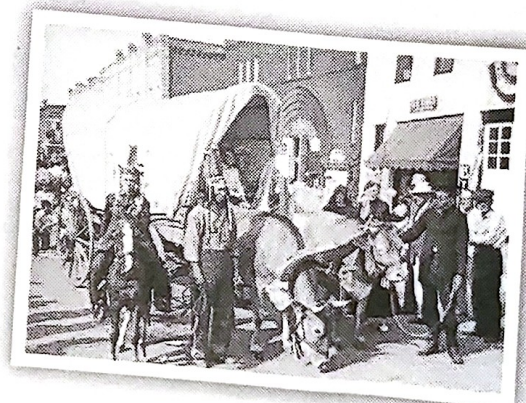
1937 – Ohio River Flood of 1937 brings devastation.

1937 – Cecil Junior Band organizes.



1939 – An old well is discovered on the Dick Lieder farm west of Paulding on Ohio 500. It is on the site of Anthony Wayne's old camp site and believed to have been dug about 150 years ago.

1939 – A three-day celebration is held for the 100th anniversary of the organization of Paulding County.





1939: THE STORY OF PAULDING COUNTY

Perhaps the last thing we know in the telling of a story is what to say first. However, to begin the story of Paulding County one must go back through the valley of many yesterdays, to a period beyond the knowledge of man. We know, with reasonable certainty, that an unknown race once trod upon our soil. About all that historians have ventured to say of these people is that they are known as the Mound-builders.

When Columbus discovered the western world, another race, known as the Indian, were alone master of this great wilderness. The people of the old world, hearing of this new land, realized that it held for them a promise of greater things – and it was then that the peasants dream was born. These people not only dreamed of this new land, but they came, and through their posterity their dreams were fulfilled.

Prior to the founding of Paulding County, a new nation had come into existence; had fought for and gained its independence – and a westward movement for expansion was in progress. To Mad Anthony Wayne goes the glory of making this territory safe for the white man, by defeating the Indians in the memorial battle of Fallen Timber.

Somewhat over a hundred years ago the first settlers came to our county. They followed the beautiful Maumee Valley and founded their homes along the Maumee and Auglaize rivers. When the first settlers came, our county was literally a dark and dismal forest. Much of it was covered with swamps, and wild beast roamed the wood. It was a mighty task indeed, that confronted the pioneer – but they were a dauntless people. They cleared the virgin forests and they tilled the soil. They built roads, canals and railroads, thus aiding transportation and forming contact with other parts of the country.

This brief sketch does not attempt to cover the history of our county. Its only aim is to touch a few of the high spots of its beginning and its progress.

It is interesting to note that the greatest obstacles faced by the pioneers were the very things that proved most helpful in the county's development. Lumbermills sprang up at many points, and the great forest became hoops and staves. Many people found employment, and towns came into being to supply the settlers needs. When the forests were cleared the land was found rich, and farming took its place.

Today Paulding County is the dream of those pioneers fulfilled. Over fifteen thousand people call it home, and they live in peace and prosperity. The

lofty spires of many churches proclaim the faith of our fathers is living still. Fine schools are found in nearly every village, and every child is given an opportunity for advancement.

How wonderful it would be if those founders of our county could see, for an instant, the many blessings we now enjoy, because of their labors. Let us pause

today, in all humility and yet with the greatest of joy, and pay homage to them who now rest in eternal slumber in the bosom of our good earth. Then let us grasp the spirit of their vision, and catch the fire of their imagination and strive to carry on, into the meadows of tomorrow and tomorrow, for dreams which yet lie beyond the imagination of man.

PAULDING COUNTY CENTENNIAL

John Paulding was a patriot
Of revolutionary fame,
His memory still is living on,
Our lovely county bears his name.

O honor them who long have toiled—
Within our hearts they hold a place;
Then stand erect and walk with pride—
Their blessings ours to hold, embrace.

Our county was a dismal swamp
Within a forest dark and wild,
About a hundred years ago
When father's father was a child.

O that I had the eloquence,
That I might grasp a mighty phrase,
That I might sing a song for them,
That I might give them worthy praise.

Here the red man roamed the wood,
Procured his food with skillful bow,
Here once the deer and timber wolf
Were known to scamper to and fro.

Yet we have reached the peak of song
If we can feel they're here today;
Their spirit lives, a marching on,
Their spirit joins with us to say.

But then at last the white man came
And soon the frontier passed away,
And all the trackless land was cleared—
The primitive had seen its day.

We're proud of thee—Paulding County,
We'll strive to make thee greater still,
For our fathers—they accomplished,
And carry on, we must, we will.

And so the county came to be—
The dream of pioneers fulfilled,
By strength of hand and strong of heart,
And too, because the Lord so willed.

Factories, yes, their smoke e'er skyward
And churches with their lofty spires,
Harvest fields and banks with money
And schools to train the future sires.

O great the progress it has seen
And never shall quite all be known—
The many sacrifices made
To make it what we call our own.

These are the stones on which we'll build,
These are the symbols of our dream;
For the high road of adventure
Forever lies beyond the gleam.

'Tis well for us who linger now,
Who dwell on this historic groun'
To sing her praises—sing them well—
Sing for her glory, her renown.

Tomorrow's hope our children hold,
And when at last our work is done,
They'll hitch our wagon to the stars
And carry far a dream begun.

One hundred years upon this soil,
Rich soil about the towns which lie;
All wrought by dreams and honest toil,
Now praised by strangers who pass by.

— By Don Parson
"The Bard of Flat Rock"
Published in The Progress of Paulding
County 1839-1939

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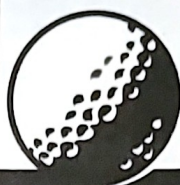
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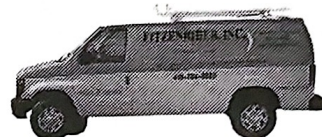
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1930

1960

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1990

2000

Stykemain Buick GMC built a
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2010

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1982 Paulding County Area Foundation was formed as a not for profit organization

2000 Marshall Memorial Supporting Foundation was created to promote the testamentary gift of Paul Marshall; aiding and assisting young farmers in Paulding County

2010 Leadership In Action project commissioned the mural on the Marshall Memorial Building



2014 Paulding County Area Foundation administered funds to build the new livestock buildings on the Paulding County Fairgrounds



2015 Paulding County Farm Bureau/ Paulding County Area Foundation Pavilion was built to promote agriculture on the Paulding County Fairgrounds

2016 Administered funds along with the Friends of the Chamber to provide the fireworks display during John Paulding Days



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~ Ron Eschbach, President



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